# SUN™ Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

August 3, 2012

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

# MEETING NOTES

## Attendance

**Members Present:** Joanne Fuller (Co-Chair), Lolenzo Poe, Roberta Phillip, Kathy Keim-Robinson, Susan Meyers, Eileen Argentina, Kali Ladd, Nate Waas Shull

**Also Attending:** Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Emanuel Price, Greg Belisle, Mary Richardson, Nabil Zaghloul, Rachel Spigal, Samir Raad, Lori Kenney

Alt = alternate member

## Updates/Announcements

* SUN Outreach Visits were made to the Reynolds and David Douglas School Boards and to the new Reynolds Superintendent, Linda Florence. All visits went well. Barbara Kienle added detail for the David Douglas Board about several recent partnership efforts including chronic absenteeism, hunger and kindergarten transition, which helped make the connection between the SUN collaboration to important initiatives within the district. Don Grotting made a point to let his Board know SUN is nationally recognized. The next round of outreach visits will include a meeting with all County Commissioner staff on August 9th; Parkrose, Sept. 10th; PPS, Sept. 24th; Centennial, Oct. 24th. Visits will also be set with City Commissioner Staff and the Gresham-Barlow Board.

* The SUN Community Schools Allocation Committee will meet again on August 9th to continue discussing the feasibility and impact of including race and ethnicity in the Poverty Index. The group includes invited experts, Pat Burk, John Tapogna and Anne Curry Stevens.
* Summer Kindergarten Transition Programs are being operated and are thriving at 12 SUN sites this summer through joint funding from Multnomah County and districts.

## Timeline for SUN RFP

Peggy reviewed a timeline showing the timing of key decision points for the RFP before its targeted release in September 2014 (timeline attached). This process will include additional input from the Council. In the next five months, SUN staff and the Department of County Human Services will want to review key issues and clarify the Council’s role recommending elements for the program model. Key issues are as follows:

* Review vision for the SUN Service System.
* Discuss how SUN ties into broader initiatives, such as Cradle to Career and the Governor’s education initiatives, and how that impacts the system and services.
* Review current structure of the system.
* Review current service array and logic models.
* Review allocation of resources.
* Consider issues connected with Every School a SUN Community School effort.
* Assemble funders group for Community Schools in particular.
* Form necessary work groups for input to the above issues. Determine when/if any of those conversations merit an outside facilitator.
* SUN Community Schools fee structure.
* Flexibility needs over the seven year life of the procurement.

Members had the following questions and input:

* What is the procedure for awarding contracts? Currently, by County policy, no single contractor is allowed more than 40% of any line of business. “Line of business” leaves considerable room for differing definitions.
* Past performance of contractors, beyond what proposers include in their responses, is not included at this time. County attorneys have counseled adherence to this policy for County procurement because of a concern that public contracting law does not include grounds for inclusion of past performance. The County has used an approach whereby people are asked to frame their successes in the RFP. Members discussed ways to design an RFP that includes an evaluative aspect for past performance.
* Interviews, if held, are structured for consistency and fairness and only allow clarifying questions.
* Consider bringing County attorney(s) and the head of Purchasing to a Council meeting to discuss the County procurement parameters around using past performance in a procurement.

*Next Steps:*

* *Council will take a look at the SUN Service System vision, system structure and allocation.*
* *Arrange to have Brian Smith and Patrick Henry come to a future Council meeting to talk about County procurement parameters around using past performance in a procurement.*

## Every School a SUN Community School Work Group

The Every School a SUN CS workgroup is in a new phase of digging deeper to lay out a plan for how to move forward with expansion. Diana brought the list showing the next 19 schools that do not have a SUN site that are still in Tiers 1 and 2 on the Poverty Index. The matrix also included information on the size of each school and demographics. The workgroup discussed how to add sites like Rosa Parks, a full robust school-community partnership, to the SUN model and whether magnet schools such as Benson, not a neighborhood school, should be a SUN site. Several existing sites have expiring and decreasing grants, so we will add to this list those sites we want to sustain.

Work is underway to develop a funding model for Every School that systematically allocates funding responsibility. A small group of representatives from lead agencies will be convened to develop recommended proportions for each funder. Workgroup members will be conducting individual outreach to superintendents to make certain they are all committed to Every School a SUN CS.

The group is continuing work with Barbara Willer and her staff to develop a list of 8-12 faith groups most promising for outreach. We will be working internally to set up meetings with faith groups to discuss the total menu of needs/issues, and then connect SUN with those who are most interested in working with SUN. The group agreed to frame our outreach to the Faith Community around supporting the success of healthy, strong and successful kids and families (homes, food, clothing, safe communities and education).

*Next Steps:*

* *Next work group meeting is Friday, August 31st, 9-10:30 a.m., Room 635, Multnomah Building.*

## Equity

Joanne shared a flyer listing the eight questions the Equity Lens uses to structure work with groups. Staff will be working with Sonali on an agenda for the upcoming retreat on Friday, October 5th. We hope that everyone can attend. The retreat will help us understand how the lens can be applied with decisions for SUN.

Joanne provided some historical background on the County’s work with equity. Ten years ago when Lolenzo was with the County, his efforts resulted in intentionally embedding equity into the System’s development and structure, including designating a significant portion of resources to culturally specific providers. Now we are ready for another big step.

While SUN has a role in bringing this issue to a greater audience, we really want a community-wide definition that doesn’t only involve the work of SUN. To that end, Bill and Roberta met with Dan Ryan from All Hands Raised and Keith Thomajan of United Way to talk about where the leadership should come from to encourage a coordinated push around equity in the community. There was receptivity but also questions about the purpose and outcomes. Nate shared that the Eliminating Disparities collaborative is working on equity and Carole Smith proposed that all organizations affiliated with Cradle to Career make a commitment to create the conditions for equity. Potentially, that collaborative could be approached about taking on the task of developing a community-wide protocol for equity, building on what is already in place; however we need it to happen so the SUN Coordinating Council can work with it in the new RFP. Lolenzo cautioned that if we begin a conversation about equity talking about funding, it has the potential to be derailed too easily. Kali suggested we begin by looking at the definitions developed by the two leading governments in the region – the City and the County. They have both put considerable effort into developing definitions that are similar. In addition to a definition of equity, there is a need for a framework or protocol that goes further at describing how the definition we agree upon gets put into practice on the ground.

*Next Steps:*

* *Equity Retreat, Friday, October 5th, 8:30 am – 12 noon, David Douglas Board Room*

## Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative

The Communities Supporting Youth collaborative endorsed its Charter and will be developing a goal for the first year at their meeting next Friday and possibly moving into work on strategies. In October of 2011, when the Council submitted a proposal to be a convener, there was a discussion about potential scope of work areas. Council members reviewed a handout of those areas and engaged in a discussion about potential high level, systems strategies around chronic absenteeism and disproportionate discipline. Generally, members focused broadly on attendance, with a conversation about where to best address disproportionate discipline. Discussion included this initial list of key areas (not prioritized):

* **System attendance protocols and outreach to families by all districts.** Educating school staff on best practices around absenteeism that support attendance and developing specific policies/practices for district wide implementation. Parkrose and David Douglas have both had significant positive impact with this step. David Douglas created district wide protocol and tools for communicating with parents and responding consistently to absence within all its schools.

* **“Wrap around” services for students and families to support attendance.** Many families have multiple complex needs and issues that present challenges to attendance. They need case management to provide support for homelessness, poverty, illness and other issues. Addressing these basic needs is critical to their ability to pay attention to attendance. This is even more critical for younger kids where students are dependent on parents to make it to school. The Student Attendance Effort in PPS is a recent example of this type of attendance-focused case management.
* **Identification of key decision points or policies within systems that are causing negative outcomes and change those practices or policies.** This could be around attendance or disproportionate discipline within schools. It could also be systemic issues within social services that create barriers to student attendance (such as length of service for anti-poverty programs). Engage the community in thinking strategically through what districts and other institutions do that has unintentional negative outcomes and how to best to change that.
* **Identify and fill critical system and community-wide support gaps** such as mentor recruitment, new SUN Community Schools at high need sites, etc.

Other comments:

* Joanne reminded members that some of these strategies may require difficult financial choices and the need to shift resources. If we decide on a priority, it will be important to use community will to help shift funding, particularly if unions resist these changes.
* The real issue for many of these problems is the policy of institutions.
* The Eliminating Disparities collaborative may well take on some of these policy issues, but the Communities Supporting Youth collaborative can send a powerful message to the community by supporting a change in policy and then considering what strategies are within the collaborative’s scope and control.
* Consider investing deeply rather than broadly, to maximize impact.
* The districts see all of us as potential partners in policy issues – the more folks there are at the table, the more support they have for addressing the concerns of unions.
* The relationships among collaboratives are critical for dovetailing on similar issues for support and coordination – i.e. on chronic absenteeism and disproportionate discipline.
* Consider a meeting with all the collaboratives on disproportionate suspension/expulsion.
* Meeting times of the Community Supporting Youth Collaborative will be changed beginning in September to make it easier for youth and families to participate. We are also reaching out to several youth groups to make certain youth voice is being brought into our work consistently and in multiple ways.

*Next Steps:*

* *Staff will send a message to the districts and other relevant collaborative members regarding this input on strategies from the Council. Council members are also encouraged to touch base with collaborative members in their organizations.*

## Upcoming Council Meeting Dates/Times:

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| **Coordinating Council:**  Friday, September 7, 2012  8:30 – 10:30 am  Multnomah Building, Room 112  501 SE Hawthorne  **Future Coordinating Council Meetings**\*:  *(\*All are from 8:30-10:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise)*  Friday, October 5, David Douglas Board Room, 8:30 am to 12 noon  Friday, November 2, Room 112  Friday, December 7, Room 112 |  | **Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative**  Wednesday, September 19, 2012  4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  Marshall High School  **Every School a SUN CS Workgroup**  Friday, August 31, 2012  9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  Multnomah Building, Room 635 |  |